

(2) Establishing test methods and criteria for product acceptance and serial release.

(3) Establishing license requirements ensuring compliance by each applicant before issuance of a license.

(4) Establishing production standards and procedures.

(5) Reviewing veterinary biologics labels and advertising claims for compliance.

(6) Establishing criteria for inspection of licensed establishments and the evaluation of such inspections.

(7) Developing policies and directives governing and pertaining to biologics activities and programs.

(8) Serving as consultant and advisor to government officials, professional and industry organizations, and the general public concerning scientific and administrative aspects of the biologics program.

(c) *Biotechnology Permits.* (1) Reviewing and processing permit applications under part 340 of this chapter.

(2) Issuing permits for the introduction of regulated articles.

(3) Maintaining liaison with state departments of agriculture, the academic community and scientific societies.

(4) Providing technical information for environmental analysis for permits allowing environmental release of regulated articles.

(5) Serving as a resource at the request of the Administrator for other APHIS and USDA units, and other government agencies.

(d) *Environmental Documentation.* (1) Planning, producing, and analyzing all environmental documentation relative to compliance with the NEPA and other environmental laws. This documentation includes but is not limited to environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, and records of decisions.

(2) Ensuring agency compliance with NEPA.

(3) Conducting public hearings and analyzing comments on agency NEPA regulations and conducting agency scoping hearings relating to environmental impact statements.

(4) Serving as liaison with the Department's Office of the General Counsel on matters pertaining to NEPA-re-

lated documents and other environmental laws.

§371.14 Delegations of authority.

(a) *Associate Administrator.* The Associate Administrator is delegated the authority to perform all the duties and to exercise all the functions and powers that are now, or that may become, vested in the Administrator, including the power of redelegation except where prohibited, and including authority reserved to the Administrator in §371.16 of this part. The Associate Administrator is also authorized to act for the Administrator in the absence of the Administrator.

(b) *Deputy Administrators and Directors.* The Deputy Administrators of PPQ, VS, ADC, M&B, REAC, and IS, and the Directors of PPD, R&D, LPA, S&T, and BBEP, and the officers they designate to act for them—with prior specific approval of the Administrator—are delegated the authority, severally, to perform all duties and to exercise all the functions and powers that are now, or that may become vested in the Administrator (including the power of redelegation, except where prohibited) except authority that is reserved to the Administrator. Each Deputy Administrator or Director shall be responsible for the programs and activities in APHIS assigned to that Deputy Administrator or Director.

(c) *PPQ, VS, ADC, REAC, M&B, S&T, REAC, and IS.* The Directors of Operational Support for PPQ, VS, ADC, and IS; the Regional Directors for PPQ, VS, ADC, and IS; the Directors of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, the Denver Wildlife Research Center, the Plant Methods Development Centers, and the National Monitoring and Residue Analysis Laboratory; and the Assistant Deputy Administrator for REAC are delegated authority in connection with the respective functions assigned to each of them in this part. They are authorized to perform all the duties and exercise all the functions or powers that are now or that may become vested in the Administrator except the authorities reserved to the Administrator or a Deputy Administrator. The Directors of the Budget and Accounting, Human Resources,

Administrative Services, and Information Systems and Communications Divisions, Resource Management Systems and Evaluation Staff, the Field Servicing Office, Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and Equal Opportunity Counseling are delegated authority in connection with the respective functions assigned to each of them in this part to perform all the duties and exercise all the functions and powers that are now or that may become vested in the Administrator except the authorities reserved to the Administrator or Deputy Administrator.

(d) *Area Veterinarians in Charge*, VS. Area Veterinarians in Charge of VS programs are delegated authority to:

(1) Issue exemptions to facilities or premises from the requirements of section 4 of the Swine Health protection Act pursuant to section 4(b) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 3803), and

(2) Issue permits to operate facilities to treat garbage pursuant to section (5)(a) of the Swine Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 3804).

§ 371.15 Concurrent authority and responsibility to the Administrator.

(a) No delegation or authorization in this part shall preclude the Administrator or each Deputy Administrator or Director from exercising any of the powers or functions or from performing any of the duties conferred upon each, respectively. Any delegation or authorization is subject at all times to withdrawal or amendment by the Administrator, and in their respective fields, by each Deputy Administrator or Director. The Officers to whom authority is delegated in this part shall:

(1) Maintain close working relationships with the officers to whom they report,

(2) Keep them advised with respect to major problems and developments, and

(3) Discuss with them proposed actions involving major policy questions or other important considerations or questions including matters involving relationships with other federal agencies, other agencies of the Department, other divisions and staffs or offices of the agency or other governmental or private organizations or groups.

(b) *Prior authorizations and delegations*. All prior delegations and redele-

gations of authority relating to any functions, program, or activity covered by the Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority, shall remain in effect except as they are inconsistent with this part or are amended or revoked. Nothing in this part shall affect the validity of any action taken previously under prior delegations or redelegations of authority or assignments of functions.

§ 371.16 Reservation of authority.

The following are reserved to the Administrator, or to the individual designated to act for the Administrator:

(a) The initiation, change, or discontinuance of major program activities.

(b) The issuance of regulations pursuant to law.

(c) The transfer of functions between Deputy Administrators or Directors.

(d) The transfer of funds between Deputy Administrators or Directors.

(e) The transfer of funds between work projects within each Deputy Administrator's or Director's area, except those not exceeding 10 percent of base funds or \$50,000 in either work project, whichever is less.

(f) The approval of any change in the formal organization, including a section, its equivalent, or higher level.

(g) The making of recommendations to the Department concerning establishment, consolidation, change in location, or abolishment of any regional, state, area, and other field headquarters, and any region or other program area that involves two or more states, or that crosses state lines.

(h) Authority to establish, consolidate, or change a location or abolish any field office or change program area boundaries not included in paragraph (g) of this section.

(i) Approval of all appointments, promotions, and reassignments in GS-14 and GM-14 and above.

(j) Authorization for foreign travel and for attendance at foreign and international meetings, including those held in the United States.

(k) Approval of all appointments, promotions, and reassignments of employees to foreign countries.

(l) Approval of budget estimates.